

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A polarizer comprising a monolayer film comprising a continuous phase and a dispersed phase,

wherein the continuous phase comprises a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material, and

wherein the dispersed phase comprises a minute domain dispersed in the matrix, and  
wherein an absorption axis of the iodine light absorbing material is oriented in a direction of an axis showing a maximum refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain and the translucent water-soluble resin.

2. (Original): ~~The polarizer according to Claim 1,~~ A polarizer comprising a monolayer film comprising a continuous phase and a dispersed phase,

wherein the continuous phase comprises a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material,

wherein the dispersed phase comprises a minute domain dispersed in the matrix, and

wherein the minute domain is formed of an oriented birefringent material.

3. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to Claim 2, wherein the birefringent material shows liquid crystalline properties at least in an orientation processing step.

4. (Original): The polarizer according to Claim 2, wherein the minute domain has 0.02 or more of birefringence.

5. (Original): The polarizer according to Claim 2, wherein in a refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain and the translucent water-soluble resin in each optical axis direction,

a refractive index difference ( $\Delta n^1$ ) in direction of axis showing a maximum is 0.03 or more, and

a refractive index difference ( $\Delta n^2$ ) between the  $\Delta n^1$  direction and a direction of axes of two directions perpendicular to the  $\Delta n^1$  direction is 50% or less of the  $\Delta n^1$ .

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original): The polarizer according to Claim 1, wherein the film is manufactured by stretching.

8. (Currently amended): ~~The polarizer according to Claim 1,~~ A polarizer comprising a monolayer film comprising a continuous phase and a dispersed phase,

wherein the continuous phase comprises a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material,

wherein the dispersed phase comprises a minute domain dispersed in the matrix, and

wherein the minute domain has a length of 0.05 through 500  $\mu\text{m}$  in a direction perpendicular to the direction of an axis showing a maximum refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain and the translucent water-soluble resin.

9. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to Claim 1, wherein the iodine light absorbing material has an absorbing band at least in a band of 400 nm through 700 nm wavelength range.

10. (Currently amended): ~~The polarizer according to Claim 1,~~ A polarizer comprising a monolayer film comprising a continuous phase and a dispersed phase,

wherein the continuous phase comprises a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material,

wherein the dispersed phase comprises a minute domain dispersed in the matrix, and

wherein a transmittance to a linearly polarized light in a transmission direction is 80% or more,

a haze value is 5% or less , and

a haze value to a linearly polarized light in an absorption direction is 30% or more.

11. (Original): A polarizing plate having a transparent protective layer formed at least on one side of the polarizer according to Claim 1.

12. (Original): An optical film having at least one of the polarizer according to Claim 1 or the polarizing plate according to Claim 11.

13. (Previously presented): An image display comprising at least one of the polarizer according to Claim 1 or the polarizing plate according to Claim 11.

14. (Previously presented): An image display comprising the optical film according to claim 12.

15. (Previously presented): A polarizer according to Claim 1, wherein the minute domains are dispersed throughout the matrix.

16. (Previously presented): A polarizer according to Claim 1, wherein the iodine light absorbing material is dispersed throughout the matrix.

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17. (Previously presented): A polarizer according to Claim 1, wherein the minute domains and the iodine light absorbing material are dispersed throughout the matrix.